(*b*) Is it a fact that a good lot of timber is thrown off without finding purchasers ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Almost all the timber received up to Edavam 1103 has been disposed of and what remains now is fresh timber received since then.

(*b*) No; the timber always finds prompt purchasers and no stock is left undisposed of.

Kuttanad to be a separate Co-operative Division.

155. **MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR** (*Ambalapuzha*) : In order to encourage agriculture, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered it necessary to form Kuttanad into a separate Co-operative Division with a separate Co-operative Inspector in charge of the work ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Government do not consider it necessary to constitute Kuttanad into a separate Co-operative Circle.

Plague Observation.

156. **MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN** (*Kunnatnad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the places at which observation stations have been established to prevent the spread of plague from Cochin to Travancore ;

(*b*) whether an observation station has not been established at Arukutti to examine passengers entering Travancore from Cochin by boats and canoes ;

(*c*) the number of Medical Officers that have been specially deputed for observation work at the Arukutti station ;

(*d*) the average number of boats and canoes that cross over to Travancore daily from Cochin through Arukutti ;

(*e*) whether it is not the rule that all the passengers in these conveyances should be examined individually ;

(*f*) whether all such passengers are individually examined at the Arukutti observation station ;

(*g*) whether they consider it possible on the part of the Medical Officers now posted there to conduct a proper examination of all these passengers individually ;

(*h*) whether they are aware that a very large number of such passengers are put to various inconveniences on account of the insufficient number of Medical Officers deputed for the work ;

(*i*) whether, in view to the convenience of passengers and to secure additional advantage on account of medical examination, they will depute more Medical Officers to the Arukutti observation station ;

(*j*) whether they are aware :

(i) that passengers by boat from Cochin are compelled to alight at Arukutti for medical examination ; and

(ii) that this is a source of considerable inconvenience to such passengers, especially to women and children ;

(*k*) whether, in view to the safety and convenience of passengers by boat, they will issue instructions for the examination being conducted in the boats themselves ;

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[Mr. Ittoop Itteechan.]

(*l*) whether the merchant canoes that enter Travancore from Cochin through Arukutti are not compelled to halt at the local plague observation station for purposes of medical inspection;

(*m*) whether these merchant canoes are completely unloaded before their medical inspection;

(*n*) whether they are aware that merchants suffer great loss and hardship on account of the unloading of such canoes for medical inspection and the consequent exposure of the goods to sun and rain;

(*o*) whether they are aware of a complaint that on payment of sufficient remuneration such canoes will be inspected without unloading and that the merchants have a grievance in this respect also; and

(*p*) if the answer to part (*o*) is in the affirmative, whether they will make the necessary enquiries?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Observation stations have been opened at Arukutti, Veluttulli, Alwaye, Ankamali, Parur (Chakkarakadavu) and at Udayamperur, under the charge of Special Medical Officers and at Kandanad by the Customs authorities of the station.

(*b*) Yes

(*c*) Two; one Assistant Surgeon and one Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

(*d*) Steam and motor boats about a dozen and cargo-laden canoes between 35 and 40.

(*e*) (*f*) and (*g*) Yes.

(*h*) No. It is reported that no avoidable inconvenience or delay is caused to the passengers in the course of examination.

(*i*) The recommendation received from the Special Plague Officer for additional Medical Officers is under the consideration of Government.

(*j*) (i) and (ii) and (*k*) All the passengers are examined in the boat in which they travel.

(*l*) Yes.

(*m*) Yes; in the case of canoes bringing food grains and other merchandise susceptible of conveying infection or harbouring rats.

(*n*) The Government are not aware. The Special Plague Officer is of opinion that further exposure to sun is essential in disinfection of grains, cereals, etc.

(*o*) No complaint of the kind has come to the notice of the Government.

(*p*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to questions above.

Publication of Advertisements in Newspapers.

157. **MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN** (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for the differential treatment in the matter of publishing Government and departmental advertisements even in the newspapers in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question is vague as the member does not specify the nature of the differential treatment shown and when it was shown in respect of Government and departmental advertisements published in the newspapers in Travancore.

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